

Alexander, Jacquelyne

To: Paul Hood
Subject: RE: Keep AB-3 Tax at an absolute minimum

From: Peter Neushul
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2016 9:12 PM
To: lafco@sblafco.org
Subject: Keep AB-3 Tax at an absolute minimum

Peter Neushul
915 Camino Lindo
Goleta, CA 93117

3 April 2016

LAFCO Board

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed 4-8 percent tax to be imposed on myself and my neighbors to pay for redundant and unnecessary services in Isla Vista. This preposterous utility tax is the creation of a lame duck state politician who is diddling around with a community he has no connection to whatsoever. Indeed Das Williams lives in Carpentaria and now running for the 1st District Supervisorial seat—this with the 3rd District Supervisorial seat opening up. Williams the career politician is now shucking off Isla Vista and heading for greener pastures.

Meanwhile, Isla Vista residents already pay a special district park tax along with two bond measures imposed by that same entity. This is on top of our property tax and other county-wide measures, bonds, etc. The idea that it is somehow reasonable that we now pay an additional utility tax for police, tenant mediation, lighting, sidewalks, parking permits, tree planting, and other services, **already** covered either by UCSB or our existing Santa Barbara County property tax, is abominable.

AB-3 is driven by ex-Associated Students officers who graduated from UCSB and now want to continue their tenure in Isla Vista. These tumors—Abboud, Schunk, and others—are sustained in part by the “Chancellor’s Council” because UCSB sees this tax as a way of avoiding paying for student services while giving lip service to self-governance. Williams coopted this herd and ramrodded a bill through the state legislature despite LAFCO’s recommendation that Isla Vista cannot pay for and does not need a Community Services District.

You are no doubt aware that UCSB’s recent purchase of Tropicana removed up to \$2.6 million a year from Santa Barbara County’s tax coffers--forever. The pittance UCSB is pledging to AB-3 is a sop compared to the very real damage their ongoing purchases are doing to our community and Santa Barbara County. Needless to say UCSB and their tenants are not subject to AB-3 taxes and yet the Chancellor will appoint a member to the proposed CSD board. Isla Vista is town populated by large numbers of transient students who should not impose draconian taxes on future generations. Students already pay hefty taxes, via their rent, to Santa Barbara County. Why should they be forced to pay more for some permanent extension of the AS Students in Isla Vista.

I accept that AS government is a means for burnishing one’s graduate school application but forming a taxpayer funded “AS graduate program” that then cuts their political teeth on Isla Vista is a ridiculous waste of money and a disservice to present and future students not to mention permanent residents of Isla Vista. If, per this bill, you are

compelled to recommend a utility tax then I urge you to keep this draconian, duplicitous, and perhaps illegal tax at an absolute minimum. Tell the graduate AS student leaders to find employment elsewhere in communities that have the wherewithal and desire to pay for their services. You graduated—now get a job or move on.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Neushul
30plus year Isla Vista resident and property owner

April 2, 2016
Paul Hood, SBLAFCO, E.O.
LAFCO Board of Directors
123 E Anapamu St # 3
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Mr. Hood and SBLAFCO Board of Directors:

When you consider the formation of an Isla Vista CSD, I hope you will keep the tax rate at 5%. The possibility of an 8% tax rate on our utilities is not something the average home owner, renter or property owner should have to bear for many of the services already available in Isla Vista, i.e. tenant mediation, infrastructure. In estimating the cost of an 8% utilities tax for my home, the lowest cost per year would be \$620.

In a recent email I learned that one of the reasons for an 8% tax is to hire a grant writer. This seems to be a bit premature to be in a plan for a board that at this point doesn't exist.

We continue to be made aware that UCSB and major developers are buying up Isla Vista properties to develop more ICON-type structures. As these properties go off of the tax roles, the long term homeowners, renters and rental property owners are those that end up with the burden of possible self-government taxes. These UCSB purchases of properties are in the Isla Vista "box". Students living in UCSB-owned housing will benefit from those of us who pay the taxes but they will have no tax burden themselves. Please keep the utilities tax rate proposal as low as possible as you move forward in your decision making process so that those who live here both now and in the future do not have to carry this financial burden.

Please enter my letter as a matter of record.

Thank you,
Susan Whisenand, Ph.D. – Long Term Resident
6877 Del Playa Drive
Goleta, CA 93117

3.29.16 IVCSA Stakeholder Meeting

Purpose of meeting: At this meeting we will be discussing the Plan of Service, and strategies and messaging for the LAFCO meeting on April 7th.

Announcements: April 7th LAFCO hearing, 1PM at County Administration building

A brief overview of all services was provided. For an overview of services that the Isla Vista Community Services District would be able to initially provide, please download and read the Isla Vista Community Services District Plan of Service at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B16TqU3YgKZJUzdV1J2ZVFnbTg>. The following are questions that were asked related to specific services or the IVCSA in general:

- Tenant mediation:
 - Do we go with the CHO office or RHMP?
 - Is the CHO equipped to be able to do those things?
 - Has CHO been contacted about this?
 - Concerns in terms of focus, students who have worked with their office in the past said the CHO they were not necessarily open to the idea of helping the families.
 - Does the CHO office have bilingual staff? This was a major benefit of the RHMP
 - THE CHO was definitely contacted and present at our meeting two weeks ago, they were the ones who suggested this
 - We should get information about these services in a qualitative way, rather than simply looking at statistics. It will be important to look at case studies or get testimonials from people who have actually used both services.
 - The Board of Directors will need to do a lot of work in order to accurately determine which service is most beneficial for Isla Vistas
- We went over the budgets, which are included in the Plan of Service (download link is <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B16TqU3YgKZJUzdV1J2ZVFnbTg>)
- Will the IVCSA be representative of the community because of two appointed seats?
 - Many of the people who are being served by the district are UCSB students who are within UCSB's disciplinary jurisdiction and are directly impacted by UCSB, it is important to have them at the table
 - The County of Santa Barbara will have final decision making power of many of the services the IVCSA hopes to perform, excluding them from the Board would make it far more difficult for the IVCSA to actually achieve any of its desired programs
 - Having two members on a seven person board means that over half of the board is still elected at large and directly representative of Isla Vista resident constituencies

3.29.16 IVCS D Stakeholder Meeting

- It is asking too much of the GM to manage the parking center study, do the community center, manage a tenant mediation program, etc.
 - How much will this person be expected to work?
 - This is a new district, whoever we hire should be willing to go above and beyond
 - Much of these programs require a large upfront investment of time, but once programs are up and running they will be primarily contract based
 - Establishing a strong foundation for services will be critical

LAFCO Board of Directors
105 E. Anapamu Street 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

April 4, 2016

Dear Board of Directors,

As a long-term, permanent residents of Isla Vista, we would like to comment upon the proposed CSD in our community.

We are not convinced that a CSD will work in our community, particularly due to the transient nature of the student body which makes up 85% of our population. The average stay in Isla Vista is about three years. On whom will we depend for the administration of the District?

When AB3 was being written and the CSD being planned for, the range for a Utilities User's Tax was 5% to 8%. We now note that the full 8% increase is being requested to be approved by LAFCO.

Please refer to the letter from Sue Whizenand, our neighbor, regarding the increase as we concur with her comments. If LAFCO's decision is to endorse the CSD, please carefully consider the amount of tax burden placed on the community. There will be a ripple effect to the students as well.

If AB3 passes and the elected CSD Board of Directors demonstrates to the community they are able to spend our taxes effectively, then, at a future date it will be possible to raise the utility tax to a total of 8%.

Thank-you so much for your consideration,

Rick and Janet Stich
6865 Del Playa Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93117